

As you know, our nation's economy has weakened over the past year for a variety of reasons, and working families are struggling to make ends meet. An early response to this crisis was the passage of the Economic Stimulus Package in January of 2008. The bill put \$145.9 billion in the pockets of average Americans by offering \$600 in relief per individual and \$1,200 per married couple, plus an additional \$300 per child.

Over 51,000 Mississippi seniors and veterans have not yet received their checks because they have not filed the proper paperwork. With record high energy and food prices and difficult economic times, I want to make sure that North Mississippians receive their stimulus checks if they have not already. It is not too late for to file for your check, and I encourage you to do so.

However, the deadline to take advantage of this important tax rebate is fast approaching. **October 15, 2008**

is the last day to file your tax return or to track a rebate check for which you may have already filed. To ensure that you receive these vital dollars now, I have created an Online Tax Resource Center. The resources provided on this page will help you get every penny you deserve in your tax refund.

It's not too late to file your income tax returns and receive your stimulus payment! Visit the Stimulus Payment section of the IRS website to learn more about receiving your rebate. <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=177937,00.html>

Where's My Refund:

You filed your tax return and you're expecting a refund. You have just one question and you want the answer now!

Where's My Refund?

Whether you split your refund among several accounts, opted for direct deposit to one account or asked IRS to mail you a check, you can track your refund through the IRS secure Web site www.irs.gov.

The online version of "Where's My Refund" allows taxpayers to check the status of their refunds and provides instructions on how to resolve delivery problems.

You can access the telephone version of "Where's My Refund?" by calling 1-800-829-1954.

Unclaimed Funds:

The IRS is currently holding tax payer money in unclaimed funds. In 2003 alone, the IRS reported that Mississippi had nearly \$12,723,000 worth of unclaimed funds. This is sometimes due to problems with addresses and the postal service or with forms that have been incorrectly filled out. Visit <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=168422,00.html> to check and see if some of this money belongs to you!

Warning Identity Theft Scams:

Taxpayers should be aware that several identity theft scams have begun circulating due to the attention surrounding the rebates included in the Economic Stimulus package. Several email and telephone scams have recently utilized the IRS name to lure taxpayers into providing personal information such as bank account and credit card numbers. To learn more about these potential threats and how to protect yourself visit <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=178061,00.html>.

Useful Phone Numbers:

Order tax forms: 800-829-3676

Individual tax questions: 800-829-1040

Business-related tax questions: 800-829-4933

TTY/TDD: 800-829-4059

EITC Information: 800-352-3792